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February 8, 2018

## The State of Our Union



Dear Friends,

Last week, the President delivered his State of the Union address. Although the President spoke at some length about bipartisanship, his first year has sadly lacked almost any sincere attempts at bipartisan collaboration. Rather than working together to expand access to affordable health care, the President has focused on sabotaging the Affordable Care Act. Instead of reaching across the aisle to pass genuine tax reform, the President chose to sign a bill that provides permanent cuts to giant corporations at the expense of middle-class families, all while adding more than a trillion dollars to the national debt.

What's particularly unfortunate about these missed opportunities is that there are issues where we can easily find common ground. Every day, Rhode Islanders travel bridges that are in terrible condition, and I introduced the SAFE Bridges Act to restore an important funding mechanism for construction and repair. My guest at this year's State of the Union was Mike D'Ambra, a former state representative and the owner of D'Ambra Construction. Mike

Join the Conversation:



### Save The Date

#### STAY SAFE ONLINE

*Educational cybersecurity presentation*

Friday, February 9  
10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.  
Johnston Senior Center  
1291 Hartford Ave  
Johnston

### Did You Know...?

#### FREE FILE

You may be eligible for free federal and state tax preparation. Take advantage of the annual IRS Free File initiative that's available to qualified individuals. >>

#### FAST FACT

Rep. Langevin and Rep. 'GT' Thompson, co-chairs of the Congressional Career and Technical Education Caucus, introduced a resolution recognizing National CTE Month, which is celebrated every February. >>

### In Other News

#### MENTORING MONTH

understands the need to rebuild Rhode Island's crumbling infrastructure, and we were both glad to hear the President highlight infrastructure as one of his priorities. However, the President made a similar commitment last February, and more than a year into his term, we have yet to see a concrete plan.

Partisan politics have consumed Washington D.C., but as I told the President after his the State of the Union address, I am ready to work with my colleagues across the aisle to find legislative solutions to our nation's greatest challenges, including expanding career and technical education and lowering prescription drug prices. I just hope the rhetoric we saw last week was more than empty words.

You can check out my full response to the President's address on [my website](#), and keep up with my efforts through my [blog](#) and by following me on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#) and [Instagram](#).

Sincerely,

*Jim Langevin*



### **His Legacy Lives On**

I had the honor of joining my Congressional colleagues and state and local leaders at the Ebenezer Baptist Church to celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday and reflect on his vision of America. Our country has seen an unprecedented amount of intolerance, bigotry and division. Now more than ever, we must remember MLK's legacy and embody his principles of social and economic justice, not just on January 15th, but every day of the year.



### **Continue to Serve**

Hardworking law enforcement officers put their lives on the line every day, and they deserve the opportunity to continue working in careers that make appropriate use of their knowledge and experience if they become disabled. That is why I introduced the Continuation on Active Service Act, a bill that will allow federal law enforcement officers to continue to offer their valuable insight and knowledge to their respective agencies and the American public.

Rep. Langevin spoke on the House Floor in recognition of National Mentoring Month to thank the volunteers who provide positive support systems for young people. >>

### **ENDING THE SHUTDOWN**

Rep. Langevin voted to reopen the government following a three day shutdown. >>

### **CLOSING THE GAP**

Rep. Langevin introduced the Reaching English Learners Act to improve the instruction of English learners in pre-kindergarten, elementary and secondary school programs. >>

### **DECORATING A VETERAN**

Rep. Langevin presented retired Rhode Island State Police Detective Richard Esposito with military decorations for his service during Vietnam. >>

### **RECOGNIZING CLIMATE CHANGE**

Rep. Langevin led a bipartisan letter to President Trump urging him to recognize climate change as a national security threat to the United States. >>

### **PRESERVING NET NEUTRALITY**

Rep. Langevin was on the Secure Digital Life podcast to discuss the need for net neutrality protections. >>

### **PROTECTING OUR WATERS**

Rep. Langevin co-sponsored legislation to prohibit oil and gas drilling off the New England coast. >>

This is an official email from Congressman Jim Langevin. You have received this email by signing up on my website for periodic updates to your email account.

If you have not received this email directly, I invite you to join other Rhode Islanders in the Second Congressional District in [signing up for my email updates](#). Please know that because I respect your privacy, your information will never be shared or sold. Also, updates will not overwhelm your email inbox.

If you no longer wish to receive these updates, you may [unsubscribe](#).